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Laundry Day Helps

A radio talk by Miss Ruth Van Deman, Bureau of Home Economics, broadcast Thursday, January 26, 1939, in the Department of Agriculture period of the National Farm and Home program, by the National Broadcasting Company and a network of 93 associate radio stations.

--ooOoo--

WALLACE KADDERLY:

We're back on our regular Thursday schedule today. Ruth Van Deman is here again with another batch of Bureau of Home Economics news---

RUTH VAN DEMAN:

And an apology.

KADDERLY:

What have you done?

VAN DEMAN:

It's what I haven't done, Wallace, Some three or four thousand mothers, grandmothers, bachelor uncles, and maiden aunts, after that talk by Mrs. Heiney and John Baker, wrote to us for our leaflet on Good Food Habits for Children.

KADDERLY:

And you haven't sent them?

VAN DEMAN:

No, the embarrassing thing was the supply ran out the very day of the broadcast. But the reprint is in now, and I hope that very soon everyone who's asked for "Good Food Habits for Children" will have a copy. But my ears have been very red these last two weeks, while we've been waiting for the new supply to come.

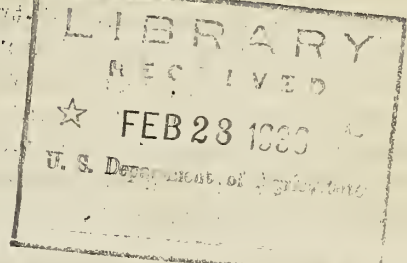
Now to the business of today. I had a letter from a listener in Virginia recently. She asked whether I'd talk some day about laundry equipment. Her own washing machine, she said, is nine years old. It hasn't any pump attachment. She has to lift all the water every time she fills and empties the tub.

I took this letter down to Miss Lenore Sater, the head of our household equipment division. I asked her what she'd put at the top of the list if she were asked to name the ten best laundry helps--that is for doing laundry work at home.

Being a very careful and scientifically minded person, Miss Sater thought a minute before she said:

"I'd put a good supply of clean hot water first. But maybe that should go without saying.

"For equipment to save labor I'd say a washing machine with these two features: A motor-driven pump built into the machine so that the tub can be emptied automatically. A pump like that makes a machine cost only about ten dollars more. And then a machine with a centrifugal drier for whirling



the water out of clothes."

These centrifugal or spinner driers operate of course on the same principle as the extractors used in the commercial laundries. In a few minutes the clothes are "damp dry"--ready for the rinse or to hang on the line.

Of course the power wringers on many washing machines are a great saving in elbow grease--even more of a saving than turning a hand wringer is over the squeeze-and-twist way of getting water out of clothes. But with any kind of a wringer with rollers, you have to feed the clothes in piece by piece, and sometimes fingers get caught with the clothes. Some of the power wringers have a safety feed device that keeps the fingers from coming in contact with the rolls. That's good. And nearly every one has some kind of a safety arrangement for releasing the pressure in case the hands do get caught.

But the centrifugal driers don't have that accident hazard.

Another point Miss Sater said to check on when buying a washing machine, is the placement of the controls. They should be easy to reach. Then you don't have to bend and twist to get to the push button on the pedal to start and stop the motor.

And the tub should be of a shape that drains well. And of a material that doesn't chip, or rust, or corrode in a hurry.

Going back to that nine years of service our Virginia friend says she's had from her machine. Ten years is often taken as the average life of electric equipment. But of course some people use their washing machines fifteen to twenty-five years, when they're as outmoded as the model T. And worse, yet, Wallace, those old-fashioned, hand-driven machines---

KADDERLY:

Fine for rubbing holes in the clothes and ripping off the buttons---

VAN DEMAN:

And for breaking the back of the operator.

KADDERLY:

That sounds like the voice of experience.

VAN DEMAN:

When you're very, very young it seems like grand exercise to develop the back muscles. But it isn't so much fun later.

KADDERLY:

Ruth, what about those two good companions--those two bulletins of yours-- the one on home laundering and the one on removing stains? They still on the free list?

VAN DEMAN:

Oh my yes. We couldn't answer our mail in the Bureau of Home Economics if we didn't have that stain removal bulletin. I think we get more questions on how to take out stains than any other one subject, unless it's canning.

KADDERLY:

Then it's safe to tell any of our listeners who want those two bulletins--stain removal and home laundering--that they can have them?

VAN DEMAN:

Absolutely. I checked on the supply just before I came over. I promise, we won't run short the way we did on "Good Food Habits for Children".

KADDERLY:

With your permission then I'll say the laundry bulletin with a section about selecting a washing machine and lots of other good information on equipment and methods is available and so is the one on stain removal.

VAN DEMAN:

By the way, that has directions for dealing with cod-liver oil stains. Lots of people are struggling with those oil stains this time of year.

KADDERLY:

This is cod-liver oil weather, that's right. Well, as usual for home economics bulletins send your cards to the Bureau of Home Economics, Department of Agriculture, here in Washington, D. C. All you need to write on the card is stain removal bulletin and home laundry bulletin. Ruth Van Deman will do the rest. And, Ruth, we'll be looking for you up here next Thursday with more information for homemakers.

